

By: Howard

H.R. No. 499

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Julie A. Boom, an associate professor at Baylor
2 College of Medicine in Houston, has been named the 2014 Childhood
3 Immunization Champion for Texas by the Centers for Disease Control
4 and Prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, This prestigious award, presented each year during
6 National Infant Immunization Week, recognizes individuals across
7 the United States and its territories who have worked to protect the
8 health and safety of children by ensuring that vaccination is a
9 priority; after first being nominated for the honor by her peers,
10 Dr. Boom was chosen by health care professionals, community
11 supporters, and other immunization leaders for her contributions to
12 public health in Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, This noted physician and health advocate was
14 motivated by an experience she had during her medical residency,
15 when she treated a three-year-old girl who ultimately died from
16 meningitis; since that time, she has focused on promoting
17 immunization and developing improved immunization technologies and
18 practices; and

19 WHEREAS, A leader in her field, Dr. Boom has directed a
20 number of collaborative, multisite research projects into vaccine
21 prevalence and effectiveness, vaccine beliefs of parents, and other
22 topics of import, with her projects including a rotavirus vaccine
23 study that resulted in changes to domestic and global
24 recommendations on the use of the vaccine; she additionally led the

1 development of an automated scheduling application that forecasts
2 each child's vaccination needs, a tool that is now used in two
3 states and by the Indian Health Service; and

4 WHEREAS, In her practice as an attending physician at Texas
5 Children's Hospital, Dr. Boom immunizes hundreds of children each
6 year, and she advises medical residents on how to communicate with
7 parents, particularly those with concerns about vaccination; she
8 has testified in support of major immunization legislation, and to
9 further reassure parents about the importance of vaccination, she
10 helped create *Vaccine-Preventable Disease: The Forgotten Story*, a
11 book recounting the real-life experiences of 20 families;
12 nationwide, more than 130,000 copies of the book have been
13 distributed, and a related short documentary, *Facing Meningitis*,
14 has been produced and made available online; and

15 WHEREAS, Through her work in the areas of education and
16 research, Dr. Julie Boom has performed a public service with
17 lifesaving implications for countless young Texans, and her
18 leadership and dedication to the cause of children's health are
19 truly commendable; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Julie A. Boom on her selection
22 as a 2014 Childhood Immunization Champion and extend to her sincere
23 appreciation for her many years of service to others; and, be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for Dr. Boom as an expression of high regard by the Texas
27 House of Representatives.